



**REMARKS**

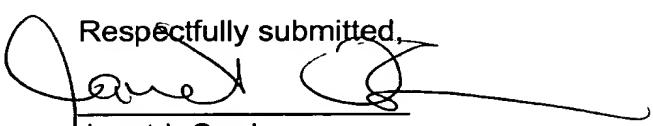
The Examiner has issued an Official Action requiring the election of a species. Applicants respectfully traverse this requirement.

However to expedite prosecution applicants elect a single component system. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended accordingly.

Applicants preserve all rights to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Janet I. Cord  
C/o Ladas & Parry  
26 West 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10023  
Reg. No. 33,778 (212) 708-1935

RECEIVED  
FEB 13 2002  
TC 1700



**MARKED-UP COPY**

Claim 1 (Amended). A single step process for [the] synthesis of nanoparticles of phase pure ceramic oxides of a single [or a multi-]component system comprising one [or more] type of metal [ions] ion, said process comprising,

- [(e)][(a)] preparing a solution containing [all] the [required] metal ions in stoichiometric ratio by dissolving their [respective] soluble salts in an organic solvent or in water;
- [(f)][(b)] preparing a precursor by complexing the metal ions with a complexing agent while keeping the ratio of the charges of the acid to the charges of the metal ions as unity;
- [(g)][(c)] adjusting the nitrate/ammonia content in the system; and
- [(h)][(d)] heating the system from room temperature to 250-300°C.

Claim 2 (Amended). A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the desired oxide contains [(a)] one cation selected from the group comprising of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, HfO<sub>2</sub>, MgO, and SiO<sub>2</sub>, [(b) two cations of the general formula ABO<sub>3</sub>, wherein A is Si, Al, Y or Lanthanides, B is Ba, Sr, Ca, Mg or Fe; with general formula AIM<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> where M = Ti, Zr or Hf; or with general formula Al<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, where N=Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba Zn, (c) three cations with the general formula A(B<sub>0.5</sub>B'<sub>0.5</sub>)O<sub>6</sub> or A<sub>2</sub>(BB')O<sub>6</sub>, where A is Ba, Sr, Ca or Mg, B is Zr, Hf, Sb or Sn, B' is Al, Y or Lanthanides, (d) four cations with general formula (AA')(BB')O<sub>6</sub>, where A and A' are Ba, Sr, Ca or Mg, B is Zr, Hf, Sb or Sn, B' is Al, Y or Lanthanides].

RECEIVED  
FEB 13 2002  
TC 1700